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URBAN DISTRICT OF WIRRAL.

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1941.

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1941.

A review of the vital statistics for the year shows that the public health has not been seriously influenced by war conditions. The birth rate, although somewhat lower than that for England and Wales, may be regarded as normal for a District of this nature, and the death rate and the infant mortality rate are both below those for the country as a whole.

Civil defence and general emergency duties still call for a considerable portion of the time of the Public Health Staff but these responsibilities have not been detrimental to the ordinary work of the Department. As indicated by the table on page 8, the normal standards of inspection and supervision have been maintained, particularly in relation to the production and distribution of milk.

A glance at the figures on page 6 will reveal that the Council's salvage organisation has completed a very successful year and that the quantity of material which has been returned to industry in this way has been a useful contribution to the national effort.

The protection of children against diphtheria has made important progress and details of the work which has been undertaken at the Council's clinics are included in the Report.

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their interest and support and to the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours obedient Servant,

J. HATTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres).....	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1941).....	18,130
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,587
Rateable Value.....	£139,090
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£555

The area is residential and agricultural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1941.

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	Legitimate	241	128	113	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population... 13.51
	Illegitimate	4	3	1	
Stillbirths		11	6	5	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..... 42.97

Birth Rate for England and Wales..... 14.2

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	218	119	99

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population..... 12.02

Death Rate for England and Wales..... 12.9

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis.....	Nil.	-
Other maternal causes.....	Nil.	-
Total.....	Nil.	-

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births..... 58.37

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... 59.29

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. -

Infant mortality rate for England and Wales..... 59.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 32

" " Measles (all ages)..... -

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... -

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 5

Deaths at various ages during 1941:-

Age	Number of deaths
Under 1 year.....	15
1 year and under 2.....	-
2 years and under 5.....	1
5 " " " 15.....	3
15 " " " 25.....	3
25 " " " 35.....	2
35 " " " 45.....	14
45 " " " 55.....	16
55 " " " 65.....	43
65 " " " 75.....	51
75 years and upwards.....	70
Total.....	218

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia.....	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	6
Enteritis.....	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4
Asphyxia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Premature Birth.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformation	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Birth Injury & Infantile diseases.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	4	-	-	1	4	4	2	-	15

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...	-	1	1
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	3	-	3
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	1	-	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	7	1	8
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases.....	1	-	1
9. Influenza.....	-	4	4
10. Measles.....	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis.....	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis....	-	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M); uterus (F).....	-	4	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum...	7	-	7
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	6	12	18
17. Diabetes.....	2	-	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions...	5	11	16
19. Heart disease.....	34	19	53
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.....	4	8	12
21. Bronchitis.....	3	-	3
22. Pneumonia.....	11	5	16
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	1	2	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	4	1	5
26. Appendicitis.....	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.....	1	4	5
28. Nephritis.....	4	3	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.....	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth.....	1	-	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases.....	3	-	3
33. Suicide.....	2	-	2
34. Road traffic accidents.....	3	-	3
35. Other violent causes.....	8	6	14
36. All other causes.....	6	15	21
Totals	119	99	218

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:	J. Hatton, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector:	G. H. Williams, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector:	J. B. Franks, A.R.San.I.
Clerk:	B. Ruddlesden.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Hoylake and Neston.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There has been no change in these services during the year.

Legislation in Force.

No new Acts or Bye-Laws have been adopted during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board, whose supplies are controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations. All samples analysed during the year have been reported as very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the Dee.

As a result of the rapid growth of the District, the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal arrangements are inadequate. A scheme to remedy this inadequacy is in abeyance as a result of the outbreak of hostilities.

Rivers and Streams.

No cases of pollution were reported during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

There are no privy middens in the District.

The following premises are provided with pail closets:-

Permanent Dwellings	18.
Temporary Structures	82.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Department.

During the year the problems caused by labour shortage become more acute but it was possible to maintain a regular weekly collection of refuse and salvage.

Tribute should be paid to the enthusiastic co-operation of voluntary salvage workers. The salvage collection system developed in the Wirral Urban District is being adopted throughout the country.

The following figures show the cost of the service compared with those prepared by other Authorities.

		Wirral Urban District Council.	Average for Urban District Seaside Holiday Resorts (Peace Time)
Weight per 1,000 population per day.		13.14 cwts.	18.2 cwts.
Expenditure per ton:	Collection	14/7d	9/0d
	Disposal	3/7d	3/5d
		18/2d	12/5d
Less net income from salvage		3/8d	-
		14/6d	12/5d
Total net expenditure per ton excluding loan charges and expenditure for new plant out of revenue.		12/11d	10/5d
Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum			
	Collection	£137.36	£150
	Disposal	£ 33.67	£ 57
		£171.03	£207
Less net income from salvage		£ 34.72	-
		£136.31	£207
Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum			
	Collection	£458.67	£453
	Disposal	£112.46	£170
		£ 571.13	£623
Less net income from salvage		£115.95	-
		£455.18	£623

Average weight per bin over the whole year:- 27.99 lbs.

Rate in £ -	Collection	4.26d
	Disposal	1.04d
		5.30d
Less net income from salvage		1.08d
		4.22d
Expenditure per bin collected		2.77d
Less net income from salvage		.55d
		2.22d

Salvage. During the year the following materials were salvaged:-

	T.	C.	Q.	Approx. Value £.
Paper	145.	10.	2.	600
Rags	6.	12.	3.	78½
Metals	26.	6.	1.	47½
Bones	7.	17.	0.	27
Pig Food	47.	10.	0.	54¾
Bottles and Jars	1.	17.	1.	12
Miscellaneous		5.	2.	1½
	235.	19.	1.	821¾

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Administration of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901 and the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections			
Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power -	35	6	-
Factories without mechanical power -	105	8	-
Other premises (other than outworkers' premises) -	-	-	-
Total	140	14	-

Defects found.				
Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	12	10	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences. (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the schedule to the Minister of Health (Factory and Workshop Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 and re-enacted in the 3rd schedule of the Factories Act, 1937).	-	-	-	-
Total	15	13	-	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE.		NOTICES SERVED.		RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICES.		PROSECUTIONS.
	NUMBER	INFORMAL	STATUTORY	COMPLIED WITH	REMAINING IN FORCE	
Dwelling Houses:-						
Inspected on Complaints ..	1712	57	4	62	43	1
Re Infectious Disease ..	168	1	1	-	2	-
Housing Acts on Complaints..	10	-	-	2	1	-
House to House Inspection ..	428	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	35	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds ..	281	-	-	-	-	-
Factory and Workshop Acts:-	117	18	-	26	4	-
Underground Bakehouses ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Bakehouses ..	21	-	-	-	-	-
Laundries	1	-	-	-	-	-
Outworkers	1	-	-	-	-	-
Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theatres and Cinemas ..	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cowsheds	117	-	-	-	-	-
Dairies and Milkshops ..	137	-	-	-	-	-
Milk Samples	87	-	-	-	-	-
Food Preparing Premises ..	248	-	-	-	-	-
Fried Fish and Chips Shops ..	13	-	-	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Supply	16	1	-	1	-	-
Slaughterhouse	-	-	-	-	1	-
Keeping of Animals ..	139	1	-	1	1	-
Stables	25	-	-	-	-	-
Schools	46	-	-	-	-	-
Sewers, Ventilators, Etc. ..	33	-	-	-	-	-
Street Gullies	9	-	-	-	-	-
Drains Inspected.. ..	265	34	1	31	4	-
Excavations made ..	14	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke tested	16	-	-	-	-	-
Water tested	3	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Tanks, Cesspools ..	110	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection. ..	743	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Disposal	848	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations ..	18	3	-	3	-	-
Rats & Mice Destruction Act..	40	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Observations ..	17	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Complaints Visited ..	2	-	-	-	-	-
Shops Act Inspections ..	101	1	-	1	1	-
Pools, Ditches, Etc ..	69	-	-	10	-	-
Privy Middens, Etc. ..	23	-	-	-	-	-
Public Conveniences ..	6	-	-	-	-	-
Licenced Premises ..	18	-	-	-	-	-
Ashpits and Bins.. ..	125	107	2	104	6	-
Street Vendors, Etc ..	14	-	-	-	-	-
Air Raid Precautions:-						
General Visits	170	-	-	-	-	-
Evacuation	448	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria Immunisation ..	69	-	-	-	-	-
Salvage	3371	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	402	-	-	-	-	-
Total ..	10,537	223	8	241	63	1

Shops and Offices.

101 inspections were made during the year by the Council's Sanitary Officers.

Camping Sites.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures in the District for the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

Ward	Vans Sheds, etc.		Tents (April to September.
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	2	-	-
Gayton	-	-	-
Heswall	56	7	-
Irby	24	7	-
Pensby	-	-	-
Thurstaston	4	4	19
Total	86	18	19

Smoke Abatement. 17 smoke observations were made during the year, but it was unnecessary to serve any notice either formal or informal.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public baths. Some enthusiasts bathe in the River Dee.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Two cases of infestation were reported during the year. These were dealt with effectively by the application of suitable insecticide.

Schools. All the schools have main water supply and are provided with lavatory basins and proper sanitary conveniences. The schools are visited systematically to ensure that the premises are being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Housing. The housing position in the District is considered to be in general satisfactory.

Material and labour shortage consequent upon the outbreak of hostilities made proceedings under the Housing Act more difficult, but it was possible to secure the remedying of all serious defects.

Milk Supply. Early morning visits have been paid to all the farms whilst milking was in progress, and all sources of supply were sampled at least four times during the year.

Although many farmers were experiencing shortage of labour there was a real effort to keep the cows clean and to maintain the premises in a satisfactory condition. A new cowshed was constructed at one farm.

Meat and Other Foods. Frequent inspections are made of all premises used for the preparation of food for sale.

There is one registered slaughterhouse in the District and this has been closed as a result of the Ministry of Food's scheme for the centralisation of slaughtering. There are twelve purveyors of meat, and meat is also sold from butchers' vans from neighbouring areas.

Adulteration, etc. This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

179 cases of infectious disease other than tuberculosis were notified during 1941. Details of these are given in the table on the following page.

There were no cases of Malaria, Typhoid or Puerperal Pyrexia in the Urban District during the period under review.

The incidence of Diphtheria was higher during 1941 and there was a total of 55 cases compared with 12 in the preceding year. All the patients were isolated and treated with diphtheria anti-toxin but there was nevertheless one fatal case. Scarlet Fever notifications showed a further decline this year and 6 cases only of this disease were reported, 5 of which were treated in hospital.

Two cases of Dysentery and 9 cases of Paratyphoid Fever were notified during the year and these resulted in one death from the latter disease. The cases of Paratyphoid Fever were traced to infected artificial cream which was brought into this District from other Areas.

16 cases of Pneumonia and 4 cases of Erysipelas also occurred but none of these presented any unusual features, and 50 cases of Measles and 23 cases of Whooping Cough were reported all of which recovered.

13 cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever and 1 case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year resulting in the death of 3 patients from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

The Council's scheme for free diphtheria immunisation has made satisfactory progress though the response of parents of children under 5 years of age has been rather disappointing. Details of the children who have been treated at the Council's clinics are given below.

No. of Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics held.	No. of children who completed full course of immunisation between 1.1.41 and 31.12.41.		
	Under 5 years	5-15 years	Total
18	139	256	395.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1941.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified													Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Total	At Ages - Years													
		Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever.....	6	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	-
Diphtheria.....	55	2	2	3	7	6	16	11	3	4	1	-	-	55	1
Para typhoid fever.....	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	2	1	-	9	1
Pneumonia.....	16	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	2	2	6	10	16
Erysipelas.....	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery.....	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Measles.....	50	4	3	3	1	3	26	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	23	1	1	3	5	4	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	13	2	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	2	-	-	1	13	3
Totals	179	10	6	12	14	13	60	24	8	12	7	5	8	96	21

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken during 1941 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 " 25	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 " 35	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " 45	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 " 55	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 " 65	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	9	4	1	1	5	1	-	-